

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Altony Brooks,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	Civil Action No. 9:21-2507-BHH
)	
v.)	
)	
Director of the Orangeburg-Calhoun)	<u>AMENDED ORDER</u>
Regional Detention Center,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

Petitioner Altony Brooks (“Petitioner”) filed a *pro se* Petition for habeas relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. (ECF No. 1.) In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(b) and Local Civil Rule 73.02(B)(2) (D.S.C.), the matter was referred to a United States Magistrate Judge for initial review.

On November 29, 2021, Magistrate Judge Molly H. Cherry filed a Report and Recommendation (“Report”) outlining the issues and recommending that the Petition in this action be dismissed without prejudice and without requiring Respondent to file a return because the Petitioner failed to bring his case into proper form. (ECF No. 17.) Attached to the Report was a notice advising Petitioner of his right to file written objections to the Report within fourteen days of being served with a copy. (*Id.* at 9.) To date, no objections have been filed, and the time for doing so expired on December 16, 2021. (*See id.* (noting objections were due by December 13, 2021, with an additional three days to be added if served by mail).)

The Magistrate Judge makes only a recommendation to the Court. The recommendation has no presumptive weight, and the responsibility to make a final determination remains with the Court. *Mathews v. Weber*, 423 U.S. 261 (1976). The Court

is charged with making a *de novo* determination only of those portions of the Report to which specific objections are made, and the Court may accept, reject, or modify, in whole or in part, the recommendation of the Magistrate Judge, or recommit the matter to the Magistrate Judge with instructions. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). In the absence of specific objections, the Court reviews the matter only for clear error. *See Diamond v. Colonial Life & Accident Ins. Co.*, 416 F.3d 310, 315 (4th Cir. 2005) (stating that “in the absence of a timely filed objection, a district court need not conduct a *de novo* review, but instead must ‘only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record in order to accept the recommendation’” (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 72 advisory committee’s note)).

Here, because no objections were filed, the Court has reviewed the record, the applicable law, and the findings and recommendations of the Magistrate Judge for clear error. After review, the Court finds no clear error and agrees with the Magistrate Judge that the § 2254 petition be dismissed *without prejudice* and without requiring Respondent to file a return. Accordingly, the Court adopts and incorporates the Magistrate Judge’s Report (ECF No. 17) and dismisses this action *without prejudice* and without requiring Respondent to file a return.

CERTIFICATE OF APPEALABILITY

The governing law provides that:

(c)(2) A certificate of appealability may issue . . . only if the applicant has made a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right.

(c)(3) The certificate of appealability . . . shall indicate which specific issue or issues satisfy the showing required by paragraph (2).

28 U.S.C. § 2253(c). A prisoner satisfies the standard by demonstrating that reasonable

jurists would find this Court's assessment of his constitutional claims debatable or wrong and that any dispositive procedural ruling by the district court is likewise debatable. See *Miller–El v. Cockrell*, 537 U.S. 322, 336 (2003); *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000); *Rose v. Lee*, 252 F.3d 676, 683 (4th Cir. 2001). Here, the Court finds that the legal standard for the issuance of a certificate of appealability has not been met. Therefore, a certificate of appealability is denied.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

/s/Bruce Howe Hendricks
United States District Judge

September 2, 2022
Charleston, South Carolina

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

The parties are hereby notified that any right to appeal this Order is governed by Rules 3 and 4 of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure.